

Boating Safety tips

Pre-Departure Checklist

Before taking off in your watercraft it's always a good idea to perform a pre-departure check of the boat and equipment, similar to a pre-flight plan used by aircraft. Use this checklist to make sure your time on the watercraft is a trouble free and possible and to maximize your pleasure and enjoyment while underway.

- ✓ Complete and leave your float plan with a responsible person.
- ✓ Make sure that the steering and throttle controls are operating properly and all lights are working properly.
- ✓ Check for fuel leaks from the tank, fuel lines and carburetor.
- ✓ Check fuel lines often. Replace immediately if they are hard and brittle, cracked, soft and mushy or swollen with marine grade fuel. **Never! Never! Never** use automobile parts on a watercraft.
- ✓ Check the engine compartment for oil leaks.
- ✓ Check hose and connections for leaks and cracks. Make sure hose clamps are tight.
- ✓ Drain all water from the engine compartment and be sure the bilge plug is replaced and secure.
- ✓ Check to be sure the fire extinguishers are fully charged.
- ✓ Make sure the stop button works on a PWC.
- ✓ Make sure the ignition safety switch and wrist lanyard are in working order.
- ✓ Make sure you have the required number of personal flotation devices (PFD's, a/k/a life jackets) and that they are in good condition and easily accessible.

For more information the U. S. Coast Guard has a website for safe boating advice: **uscgboating.org**.

To enroll in a Boating Safety Education class, contact Lu DuBois at (928) 467-2515 or leave a message on the answering machine (928) 467-2155 and she will return your call. The current classes are scheduled at the following times:

Payson – June 10th at the Payson Police Department, 303 N Beeline Highway.

Globe – July 8th at the FOP Hall, 5598 South Old Oak in Claypool.

Payson – August 12th at the Payson Public Library, 328 N. McLane Road.

Globe – Sept. 9th at the FOP hall, 5598 South Old Oak in Claypool.

Payson – October 14th at the Payson Public Library, 328 N. McLane Road.

All classes will run from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm with an hour for lunch.

Theft Prevention

Theft of watercraft, boat trailers, motors and boating/fishing equipment is an ongoing problem year round. Here are some things you can do to deter or prevent your property from being stolen:

- Store your vessel so that it is not easily accessed. If possible store it in a locked garage or storage area.
- Park another vehicle in front of it and lock it or chain (with a high quality lock or chain) it to a fixed object in a well-lighted area. Give the same attention to the motor and fuel tanks.
- If the watercraft is moored secure it to the dock with a steel cable and lock.
- Lock the trailer hitch with a quality device.
- If the trailer is going to be stored for an extended period of time consider removing one wheel.
- Engrave all equipment with an identifier that is familiar to you such as a DL # or other personal number and include your state abbreviation.
- Photograph or videotape all of the interior and exterior of your watercraft.
- Make a complete listing/ inventory of all your equipment including manufacturer, make, model, year and color of boat and trailer.
- Remove expensive electronics and other valuables.
- Cover your vessel and **ALWAYS** remove your keys.
- In the event something should happen, report it immediately, don't wait!

Anyone wishing to take a class should contact Lu for the one most convenient for you. If you have a boat, it is a good idea to take the class not only to become familiar with boating laws but also to make sure you have the required equipment.